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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,375	11/25/2003	Keith W. Atkinson	IGTIP304/AC043	8007
79646 7590 04/14/2009 Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP - IGT Attn: IGT P.O. Box 70250 Oakland, CA 94612-0250				
EXAMINER				
KIM, KEVIN Y				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3714				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/723,375

Applicant(s)

ATKINSON ET AL.

Examiner

KEVIN Y. KIM

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 5-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 5-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-85/86)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/27/2009
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/27/09 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosnan et al (US 6,682,423 B2) in view of Garahi et al (US 2001/0041612 A1) and Kaminkow et al (US 2003/0036425 A1).

4. In re claim 1, Brosnan discloses a gaming network comprising:

a plurality of gaming machines (figure 1A);

one or more information servers coupled to the gaming machines, the one or more information servers structured to store data related to the plurality of gaming machines and related to players of the gaming machines, and to generate data for use

on the gaming network (figure 1A, 71-74, column 6, lines 15-46);

a plurality of secure wireless devices structured to couple to the one or more information servers (figure 1A, 52d-g, column 10, lines 2-47);

a secure wireless receiver, other than the one or more information servers, structured to couple to at least one of the secure wireless devices (figure 1A, 52a-c, column 10, lines 2-47). While it is not explicitly disclosed that the connection of Brosnan is a secure data channel, it is well known in the art that wireless connections implemented by computer systems and machines must be secure, especially when communicating sensitive data such as the information being transferred in a casino. Such secure channels may be implemented in several ways:

a password to access the wireless servers;

MAC ID filtering;

WEP and WPA encryption;

WPA2 encryption;

et al.

As the system of Brosnan implements a communication interface capable of wireless communication (for example, a wireless router/receiver such as one manufactured by Linksys implementing the 802.11g protocol), one skilled in the art would have the knowledge to secure the wireless data with one of the above methods, and thus, would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, as it is a well known improvement in the art that yields a predictable result. Furthermore, a person of ordinary skill has good reason to pursue the known options

within his or her technical grasp. If this leads to anticipated success, it is likely the product not of innovation but of ordinary skill and common sense. In this case, the anticipated success is that of a secure wireless channel.

However, Brosnan is silent on the secure wireless devices being wireless servers structured to couple to the one or more information servers and being located in an area in which gaming machines are available for play. Garahi teaches a wagering interface in which an information server is utilized (figure 2, 104, 100, and 102). Coupled to this is a wireless server (116). The use of multiple servers is a well known feature in the art used to reduce the load of a single server, since it is also a well known fact that multiple devices performing a single task performs said task more efficiently and faster than one single device. Furthermore, due to the nature of wireless signals, the wireless server must be in a location in which the devices are in range, else no devices would be able to make any kind of connection, thus the server must be in the gaming area to provide a strong, stable signal.

Brosnan is also silent on the wireless receiver being portable, coupled via a wireless link to wireless servers. Garahi teaches several portable wireless devices that communicate with wireless servers (paragraph [0057], figure 1, 18). Being wireless devices, the devices must communicate via a wireless link. It is inherent that a device that communicates with a wireless server must be able to receive a wireless signal as well, otherwise there would only be one-way communication, and the server would not be able to send a verification signal to the device, confirming connection for security and/or stability purpose, and thus, devices 18 are also wireless receivers.

Finally, the above are silent on the servers being located in an area of the gaming floor, and wherein the at least one secure wireless server is structured to create a session with the receiver only at certain times and terminates sessions if the receiver is not used for a predetermined period of time. The location of servers is an obvious design choice – one skilled in the art would be able to place servers in any location desired, especially due to the fact that they are wireless. Kaminkow teaches creating a portable, wireless receiver (figure 3, 358). A server creates a session with the wireless receiver upon the initiation of a gaming event, and ends the session if the receiver is not used for a predetermined period of time (paragraph [0187], a timeout condition).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the wireless servers of Garahi in order to provide a convenient and wireless method of providing connectivity to players in the area, while utilizing the methods of Kaminkow in order to communicate information between a server and client wirelessly, while saving energy and preventing unneeded connectivity by terminating sessions after a timeout.

5. In re claim 2, Brosnan discloses the at least one wireless server is structured to create a session with the secure wireless receiver, where the session is created when a player inserts a player tracking card that communicated with the game server to execute the functions of player tracking (column 19, lines 30-57). In other embodiments, a session is created when a gaming machine needs to be updated (column 20, lines 14-20). Garahi has been discussed regarding the use of a server with Brosnan.

6. In re claim 3, Brosnan discloses the session is limited in duration, as the session lasts only as long as the player plays the gaming machine (column 19, lines 30-57).

7. In re claim 5, Brosnan discloses a system for redeeming tickets comprising:
one or more information servers on a gaming network, the one or more information servers configured to store data related to past play of gaming machines and related to players of the gaming machines, and to generate data for use on the gaming network (column 19, lines 30-58);

data stored on the one or more information servers relating to transactions previously memorialized by a ticket (column 18, lines 47-55).

Please refer to the discussion of claim 1 regarding the wireless server and receiver.

8. In re claim 6, Brosnan discloses a session detector, where the session detector is a card reader used to initiate a gaming session for a player (column 19, lines 30-45).

9. In re claim 7, Brosnan discloses the ticket identifier correctly identifies a previously memorialized transaction (column 18, lines 18-27).

10. In re claim 8, Brosnan discloses the information servers are configured to generate redemption data (column 18, lines 46-55).

11. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosnan in view of Garahi and Kaminkow as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Stern (US 6,110,044).

Brosnan, Kaminkow, and Garahi have been discussed above, but are silent on

the redemption data including the date and time a ticket was redeemed. Stern teaches a ticket redemption system in which the date and time of a ticket's creation is printed on the ticket (figure 2). Furthermore, upon redemption, a record is stored containing data relating to it, including the date and time of redemption (column 9, lines 5-17). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the date and time system of Stern in order to prevent counterfeit duplicates of winning tickets from being redeemed.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, and 5-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN Y. KIM whose telephone number is (571)270-3215. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John M Hotaling II/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/Kevin Y Kim/
Examiner, Art Unit 3714